

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

September 9, 1974

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics
(415) 497-3052

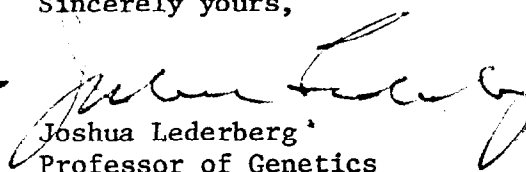
Dr. David P. Rall
Director
National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709

Dear Dr. Rall,

I have been struggling for some time to see if I could manage to include participation in your forthcoming conference on statistical problems (September 30th) in my schedule. I hardly need tell you that I am deeply interested in this question and would like to remain informed about the perspective of your colleagues and perhaps to make some contribution to it. I regret though that I have not been able to figure out a way to work it in with my other educational and domestic responsibilities, and I have to say no for this occasion. I would, nevertheless, be deeply appreciative if you could keep in mind to let me have any transcripts or reports or whatever other documentary outcome there might be of the conference or its aftermath.

Thank you for having thought of asking me,

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr

LT. J. P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE, DEDICATED TO RESEARCH IN MENTAL RETARDATION

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

HEREDITY

NEUROBIOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE

9/9/74

P.S. While I have a communication linked to you, I wonder if I might bring up a question that has been troubling me for some years, the almost total lack of investigation of the possible toxic side-effects of chlorine and especially of the miscellany of chlorine derivatives that are likely to appear now in reclaimed waste water. Our efforts to receive funding for research in this direction have batted zero and perhaps I have simply been unable to direct our grant applications to the appropriate channels. However, I need hardly tell you that this is not an easy thing to do. I cannot help but feel that part of our difficulty comes from the entrenched opposition of sanitarians to the implied questioning of the basic premise of the value of chlorine disinfection in water supplies. In fact, I would hardly be the one to challenge that point but that is scarcely any reason to oppose a careful re-investigation of some of the possibilities. With the apparently irresistible trend to task oriented research and the use of contracts as alternative vehicles, it occurred to me to suggest that you consider the merits of framing a solicitation for research contract proposals in this general area. Were this to be done, I think we might still wish to compete for the opportunity to continue investigations on mutagenesis by chlorine and chlorinated derivatives likely to be found in water supplies, and on the biochemistry of their formation and metabolism. We have abandoned research in this area for the last two years finding it impossible to get financial encouragement for it and having, as so many people have, great difficulties in surviving at all as a research organization.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr
Enclosures

noted
10/10/74